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Letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the violation of United Nations embargoes on Sierra Leone issued on 7 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the violation of United Nations embargoes on Sierra Leone issued on 7 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is concerned about the effects of violations of United Nations arms embargoes in conflicts in Africa. Despite the Lomé Peace Agreement seeking a lasting settlement in Sierra Leone and a United Nations arms embargo against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), fighting between the Government and RUF continues. In Angola the situation is the same: fighting continues although a peace agreement is in place and an arms embargo on National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is in force. Both these cases of continued conflict seem in great part to be possible because of the continuing supplies of arms from outside. In this respect, the European Union expresses its grave concern over the allegations of arms shipments that have helped RUF and UNITA sustain military operations after the respective peace accords were concluded. The European Union calls on all parties to refrain from any action that contributes to prolonging conflicts further.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.